

## Virginia Latino Advisory Board

Friday, December 16, 2022

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Marymount University - Ballston Center

1000 N. Glebe Rd., Arlington, VA 22201



VIRGINIA  
**LATINO**  
**ADVISORY**  
BOARD

### MEETING MINUTES

#### Attendance (15 + 1 virtual)

Avendano	Jonathan		Guzmán	C. Alexander		Revilla	Emilio
Berry	Paul		Fierro Kelly	Jennifer (virtual)		Sanchezconcha	Lyons
Chase	Jo-Ann		Kline-Gabel	Karina		Soto	Rodrigo
Clavijo	Wendy		Medina	Yahusef		Vega	Juan
De Silva	Joshua		Metzger	Ana		Watkins	Walewska
Espinoza	Juan		Patterson	Diana		Williams	Cecilia
Gamez	Astrid		Rimola	Sergio		Zelaya	Eduardo
	= present			= not present			= partial attendance

*Administration's staff present:*

*Gloria Senecal, Director of Board Administration*

*Michael Molina, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs*

#### 9:00 a.m. Call to Order and Introductory Remarks – Lyons Sanchezconcha

Meeting called to order. Dr. Irma Becerra, President of Marymount University, shared her bio and highlighted key aspects of Marymount University, 25% of whose student body is made up of Hispanic students. The University is the only Hispanic Serving Institution in the Commonwealth.

#### 9:14 a.m. Committee Breakout Sessions – Committee Chairs

Business & Workforce, Education & Career Training, Health, and Housing

#### 10:06 a.m. Convene the General Meeting – Lyons Sanchezconcha

Guests greeted. Quorum met after roll call. Meeting convened. Board members introduced.

#### 10:13 a.m. Meeting Minutes and Meeting Agenda – Lyons Sanchezconcha

October 2022 Minutes approved with no changes and no opposition (motion by Jo-Ann Chase; second by Diana Patterson)

December 2022 Meeting Agenda adopted with no changes and no opposition (motion by Joshua DeSilva; second by Jo-Ann Chase)

#### 10:15 a.m. Public Comment

Gaston Araus, Director of Government and Community Relations, Marymount University offered assistance.

Kripa Patwardhan, MPP, Parent and Youth Outreach Specialist, Edu-Futuro explained that her organization empowers immigrant communities: <https://edu-futuro.org/about-our-people/>  
Dr. Rebecca Jackson introduced herself.

Oswaldo Moreno, Psychologist, Virginia Commonwealth University, introduced himself: <https://psychology.vcu.edu/people/faculty/moreno.html>

Monica Sarmiento, Executive Director, Virginia Coalition for Immigrant Rights introduced herself.

#### **10:21 a.m. Administrative Update – Gloria Senecal**

Introduced herself and talked about the importance of legal soundness, logistics, networking, and relationship building. Discussed the reimbursement procedure, reminded the Board of the January 27, 2023 meeting, and informed the Board of a Policy Webinar in early January.

#### **10:27 a.m. Policy Team Brief – Michael Molina, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs**

Described his duty as a federal government liaison and discussed procuring federal funds for Virginia. Informed that the Governor will open an office in Rosslyn and offered to be a resource.

#### **10:32 a.m. Listening Session Recap – Joshua DeSilva**

The Listening Session occurred on December 15th from 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. It was supposed to take place at CASA in Woodbridge but due to inclement weather it took place virtually.

Walewska Watkins discussed housing rent increases. Cecilia Williams stressed the lack of the availability of medical- and dental-resource information. Joshua DeSilva mentioned that the Small, Women-owned, and Minority-owned Business (SWaM) certification program is complicated and not available in Spanish. Jo-Ann Chase addressed issues of the aging community. Rodrigo Soto addressed the lack of language access and the lack of government allocation of money. Astrid Gamez talked about passing on information about resources to the Hispanic community, which was a common and repeated theme during this discussion. Another theme was the lack of translation services. Lyons Sanchezconcha handed out notes that he took at the Listening Session.

#### **11:00 a.m. Guest Speakers – Monica Sarmiento & Michael Hoefer**

Monica Sarmiento, Executive Director, Virginia Coalition for Immigrant Rights  
[Handout documents linked.](#)

Monica Sarmiento shared with the Board the history of VCHR and the fact that it collaborates with over 100 organizations. Discussed three topics: (1) English language learners, (2) scholarships for dreamers, and (3) affordable housing. For more information visit: <https://vchr.org/>

Michael Hoefer, Treasurer, Virginia Office of New Americans Advisory Board (ONAAB)  
[Presentation slides linked.](#)

Michael Hoefer, a retired Chief Executive of the U.S. Customs & Immigration Services, gave a presentation based on statistics regarding immigration trends and potential reforms. Discussed the changing attitudes about immigration, the details behind the percentages of categories of immigrants, and the fiscal impact of immigration at the federal and state levels. For more information visit: <https://www.governor.virginia.gov/onaab/>

**12:15 p.m. Lunch**

**12:35 p.m. Chair's Report – Lyons Sanchezconcha**

Asked for ongoing feedback as to how he and the other officers can better serve the Board, encouraged inviting speakers and guests, shared his vision for creating a pathway for leadership transition, and reminded the members of 2023 meeting dates.

**12:43 p.m. Committee Reports**

**Business – Diana Patterson, Chair**

Shared a list of items being considered: A business-idea-generating hotline, the continuation of free public transportation, funding for Small Business Development Centers, and licensing for foreign-educated medical practitioners and other professionals.

**Education and Workforce – Yahusef Medina, Chair**

Discussed DACA scholarships and collaboration with other boards, informed that he met with the Secretary of Education and Superintendent, and proposed the possibility of responding to the Administration's response to backlash over proposed history standards. For more information visit: <https://wtop.com/virginia/2022/11/governor-glenn-youngkin-responds-to-backlash-over-virginias-proposed-school-history-standards/>

**Health – Cecilia Williams**

Discussed health literacy and highlighted four topics: (1) the definition of health literacy, (2) assessment tools, (3) implementation of health literacy at various sites, and (4) culturally based monitoring and evaluation. Also discussed technical assistance, capacity building, and cultural tailoring. Mentioned the Administration's "Right help, Right Now" behavioral health plan: <https://www.governor.virginia.gov/newsroom/news-releases/2022/december/name-947166-en.html>, and stated that the \$230M allocated for mental health should be monitored to make sure it addresses the needs of multicultural communities.

**Housing – Walewska Watkins, Chair**

Discussed the upcoming transition of committee leadership, local deregulation and reform zoning and ordinances and how they affect the Latino community, the lack of funding for the Virginia Housing Trust Fund and how it may affect home ownership, and the importance of affordable housing.

**1:09 p.m. Board Discussion and New Business – Joshua DeSilva**

Discussed the need for a VLAB taskforce to examine the Administration's mental health plan and invited members to inform Joshua if interested.

**1:10 p.m. Closing Remarks and Announcements – Lyons Sanchezconcha**

Mentioned allowing more time for dialog. Meeting adjourned with no opposition (motion by Alexander Guzman; second by Rodrigo Soto)